

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 71 - November 26, 2021

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Midwife numbers hit by
mandate... p2

Veteran muso brightens
a lazy Sunday... p3

Shore shoppers enjoy
retail's return... p12-15

Board could be powerless in walkway stoush

Resource-consent hurdles threaten the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board's desire to reopen public access to Te Uru Tapu pohutukawa grove at the northern end of Takapuna Beach.

The board voted at its November meeting last week to restore the elevated walkway

through a site considered both culturally important and environmentally fragile – overriding the advice of Auckland Council staff and the wishes of mana whenua.

Member Toni van Tonder was the sole dissenting voice on the board, saying: "This should never have been built in my view."

Board chair Ruth Jackson admitted an early reopening was unlikely, given trees in the grove needed pruning and propping by arborists to ensure public safety.

But the path to any reopening looks much more complicated than that, with the board

To page 8

Business owners vent frustration – and fears



Feeling forgotten... Months of lost trade have taken a high toll on (from left) Takapuna hairdresser Jennifer Morgan, and hospitality-business owners Gina and Clinton Henry, Mark Wilson and Steve Schute. They were among businesspeople who shared their concerns at a 'picnic' at Wilson's The Grange at Smales Farm. Story, page 4-5

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Briefs

Business van stolen



A Takapuna business owner is dismayed at the theft of her signwritten company van (pictured). Lisa Marsh, owner of Flower Wholesalers on Barrys Point Rd, said the theft was a costly inconvenience at a time when businesses were already struggling. “This has really affected me like you wouldn’t believe. It’s made me really sad that somebody can do this.”

Mall goes ticket-free

Tickets are no longer being issued to parkers at the Shore City mall car park, with a switch to a number-plate-recognition system. The car registration is picked up as the vehicle enters and entered by the driver before payment and departure. The plate will be recognised and the barrier raised. Parking remains free for three hours.

Hell on Hurstmere ends

After nearly two years, the Hurstmere Rd upgrade is winding up this week, leaving wider footpaths and fresh planting.

Shore DHB’s midwife numbers hit by health-worker vaccine mandate

Losing the services of North Shore midwives due to the health-worker vaccine mandate is expected to increase pressure on the midwifery service.

The Waitemata District Health Board, which covers the North Shore, has lost 86 staff, including six midwives, due to the Covid vaccine mandate for health workers. This is 2 per cent of the workforce.

All health workers had to have at least one Covid vaccine by 15 November by law, and both doses by 1 January.

The Midwives’ College of New Zealand said that no DHB midwives had so far lost their jobs. “Those who have not yet had one vaccine were stood down from their roles on 16 November,” said the college’s employee representation and advisory service co-leader, Caroline Conroy.

“Some are applying for health exemptions, others are considering the vaccine, early retirement or other options,” she told the Observer. It would not be known for a

few weeks how many would lose their jobs, as they were entitled to a four-week notice period. “And there is still time for them to have their vaccines and meet the 1 January deadline.”

North Shore already had some midwifery vacancies, Conroy said. “So the loss of any midwife does add pressure to the service.

“There will be new graduates joining the workforce in the New Year and they will be very much welcomed by the midwives currently working at North Shore.”

Some elective work, such as inductions of labour or elective caesarean sections, may have reduced capacity, but this happens from time to time in response to vacancies, Conroy said. “Priority is always given to those women with greatest need.”

Unvaccinated staff at Waitemata DHB also include 22 nurses, 4 senior medical officers, 11 registered officers and 53 other unspecified roles, according to figures published in the New Zealand Herald.

Three with Covid die at hospital

Three people have died with Covid-19 in North Shore Hospital in the last few weeks.

A man aged in his 90s, from the Edmon-ton Meadows Care Home in Henderson, died on 18 November. This following the death of another resident of the home, a woman also in her 90s, who died on 13 November after being admitted a week earlier. Both had a number of underlying health conditions.

On 16 November, a man in his 60s died after being admitted with Covid symptoms on 4 November and then testing positive.

Earlier this week, there were 85 cases in Auckland hospitals with 20 on the Shore.

Meanwhile, Milford west, Takapuna central and Takapuna south were last week the only areas in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area with a second Covid vaccination rate of less than 90 per cent.

Monster trucks from construction site ‘putting children at risk’

Large trucks using a route past Takapuna Primary School on Auburn St have raised fears for the safety of children during drop-off and pick-up times.

Trucks leaving the site of the demolished former fire station on Killarney St, which is being cleared for groundworks to allow for the construction next year of a Ryman retirement village, have in recent weeks been turning left into Killarney St and right into Auburn St.

Local resident Roger Stevens is concerned pupils, who include his grandson, are being put at risk.

“These trucks are so monstrous they shouldn’t be near the school,” says the former policeman. “There’s no way in hell they would even see a kid.”

During another large nearby construction project for the Lakeside Apartments, Stevens said traffic management plans were put in place

that diverted trucks away from side streets.

He approached the construction company, Fulton Hogan, at the Ryman site and was told it was allowed to use the Auburn St route. But a better route for them to the motorway would take them west on Killarney St, he believes.

Auckland Transport said there was a traffic management plan in place. It had taken schools into consideration. A pointsman was there to assist pedestrians and locals had been notified.

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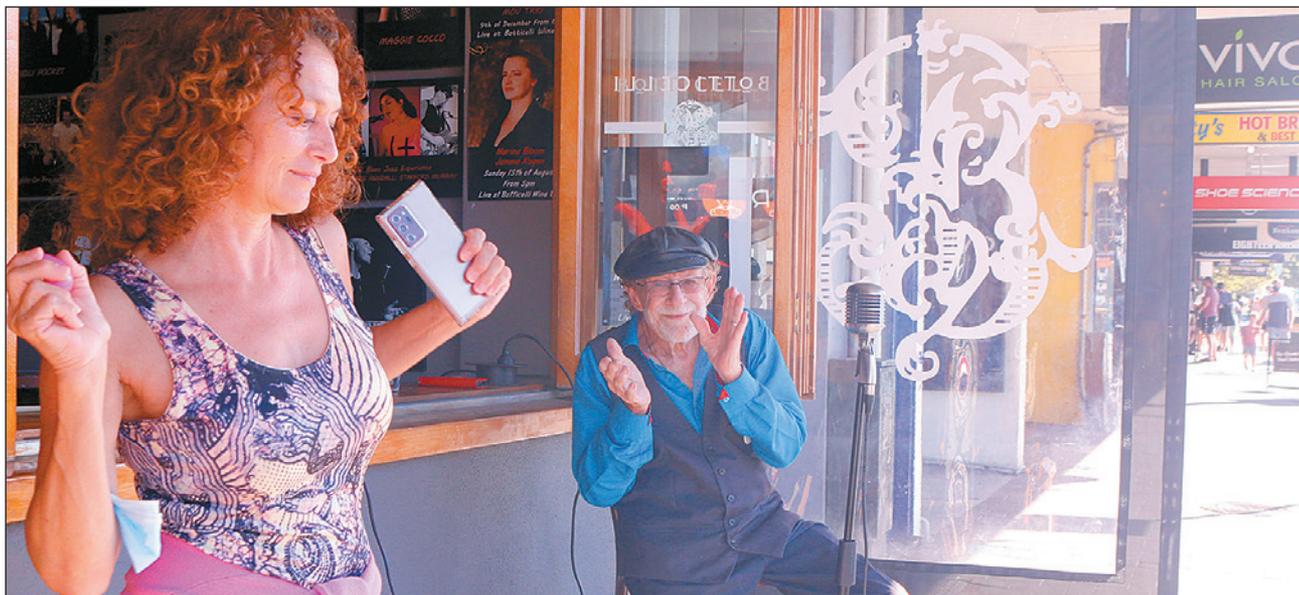
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Live music lifts lockdown spirits on the street



After 50 years in the music business, Paul TT (pictured above) is happy to be back sharing his sounds.

The 73-year-old played a lively selection of standards outside Takapuna restaurant Botticelli in the balmy late-afternoon last Sunday, with passers by stopping to listen.

"It's good to get out again," said Chris Beach, who with Maree Butler had come up from Devonport for a look after hearing about the session. They have previously enjoyed the "great venue and its great music" and are keen to return when they are able to sit inside.

Botticelli owner Diliana Klintcharova (pictured, dancing) has been doing her best to lift spirits in the meantime by inviting musicians to set up on the footpath for twice-weekly Covid-era "gigs".

The previous weekend, a group sat over the road to listen and eat pizzas they had ordered from the restaurant, knowing a slice

of the price was helping support a musician.

For Klintcharova it's her way of helping keep music alive, even though restaurants are also doing it tough. In normal times Botticelli has live music three times a week, ranging from jazz on a Wednesday, to Brazilian tunes late on Friday and mellow popular music on a Sunday.

"That's what I miss," she said.

The restaurant is "surviving" by selling takeaways, but she can't wait to reopen and will have some new skills to promote this. "I've learned how to use social media," she said, while filming Paul TT's performance.

During a break, the One Tree Hill singer and fiddle player told the Observer he is a newcomer to her fold. "She's got a wonderful lot of musicians who play here."

Klintcharova – who originally hails from Bulgaria and has been at Botticelli since 1994 – heard him in Birkenhead a while back and sounded him out about a solo act.

"It's so important to be out and to share music again, he says. It makes me feel good and it makes people feel good, and it brings a touch of normality." Donations from the public are a welcome bonus.

Earlier in his musical career, Paul played at clubs in the city, including holding a lengthy six-nights-a-week residency under The Civic in the 1960s, with popular covers band Rock Candy. A stint at the Intercontinental Hotel followed, where he met a lot of big names, including Neil Diamond, Roger Miller, David Cassidy, Lionel Richie and Santana. He's busked in Los Angeles and Las Vegas, popped up on telethons and recorded a couple of albums. In recent years he has become a familiar face at Auckland markets. He was a regular for a decade and half at La Cigalle in Parnell.

His double-vaccinated status looks like a boon in the months ahead as the live music scene negotiates a new era.

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Takapuna business owners share sorry stories of

Forgotten, frustrated and fearful – those are just a few of the words business owners hit hardest by the lingering lockdown use to describe how they feel.

Leading Takapuna hospitality owners and a popular hairdresser expressed their anger and angst at a recent forum at Smales Farm.

“It’s absurd. No one knows what is going on,” said Jennifer Morgan, of the Morgan & Morgan salon. “It didn’t need to be this hard.”

Steve Schute who owns the Elephant Wrestler on Hurstmere Rd and Regatta and Francs bar on The Strand said the industry was all about compliance, but it was not being trusted. “We’d be safer than the supermarket – they’re open.”

His losses were running at \$50,000 plus a week, but he could not take forward bookings for functions because he had no idea when these could be held again. With 95 staff across three venues he worried about how to get them back and keep them motivated.

A city bar owner at the meeting, Sam Ansley of Everybodys and Roxy, said hospitality was being treated as pandemic “collateral damage”. Morgan described the description, which she had heard before, as “soul destroying”.

Service industries were not valued and were written off as low-wage employers, said another attendee.

Ansley said rule changes and drip-fed information were adding to the pain, reflecting Wellington’s lack of understanding about the cultural value of hospitality and the depth of damage it had sustained in Auckland.

Another city venue owner said a paint-by-numbers approach to support meant that businesses down 40 per cent in turnover qualified for the same subsidy as those down 100 per cent.

“Everyone feels pretty neglected. We just



All ears... Simon Watts and Erica Stanford, National Party MPs for North Shore and East Coast Bays, listen to business concerns

feel like the forgotten industry,” said another.

The gathering took place outdoors at Smales Farm, with convenor and North Shore National Party MP Simon Watts saying it was designed to be small and “picnic-style” so as not to breach regulations.

The owner of The Grange, Mark Wilson, served up nibbles on his venue’s deck, in lieu of having it open to the customers he is desperate to welcome back next month.

Hearing the Prime Minister dismiss a quick change to allow more al fresco dining as “not viable” had hacked him off, he said. “Having no income for 13 weeks is not viable.”

Two key themes emerged from the nearly 20 people attending: the need for government support to carry through the first quarter next year and worries about policing vaccine mandates.

Several people spoke of concerns about

anti-vaxxers disrupting trading or challenging staff. One owner said he had already been threatened online. “People are going to guerrilla warfare our venues,” said Schute.

Watts said he would return to Wellington to continue to push the government on its Covid-19 pandemic management and delivery.

National’s Covid-19 spokesman, Chris Bishop, also attended, as part of a day in Auckland visiting hospitality businesses.

He slated Labour over its slow pace in rolling out vaccine passports and approving rapid testing. National supported a \$100 voucher for vaccinated people to dine out, he said.

East Coast Bays National MP Erica Stanford said the party was pushing for visas for foreign staff.

University of Auckland emeritus professor of medicine Des Gorman told attendees restrictions should already have been loosened for fully vaccinated people.



On deck... Mark Wilson wants the traffic light turned green

Al fresco venue owner: down \$2m

Mark Wilson fears a pre-Christmas exodus of Aucklanders will kill off any “sugar rush” of customers from a December reopening of his Takapuna restaurant and bar.

At this time of year, he would expect his Smales Farm venue, The Grange, to be pumping.

Christmas parties make November the busiest month, closely followed by December, when people typically enjoy catch-up drinks.

But with the border set to reopen mid-month under the traffic light system he is not sure how things will pan out.

If cooped-up Aucklanders flocked to Omaha or Queenstown, then there might only be a fortnight of good cheer in the city, with no way of recouping what had already been lost.

“My best guess is we would be trading at 50 to 55 per cent of normal revenue,” he said.

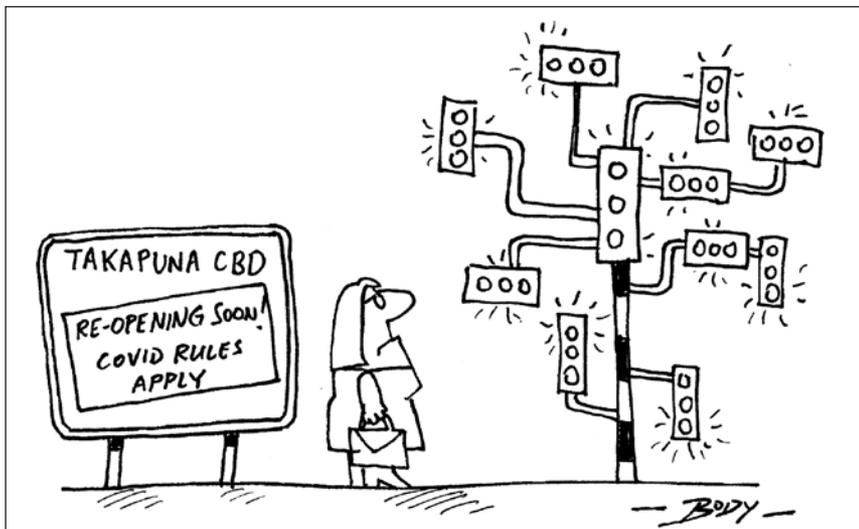
“By the time we come out of lockdown in December we will have just a fraction over \$2 million wiped off our revenue.”

On top of not making money since lockdown began in mid-August, with every month that has gone by Wilson has been putting \$23,000 into the business just to keep it ready to reopen.

With plenty of outdoor seating, The Grange is ideally set up for Covid-era wining and dining, but the red-light cap of 100 people in a venue when he could fit more than three times that number in varied separate spaces will constrain the business bounce-back.

A frustrated Wilson said that even when the red light changes to orange it does not signal much moving forward for hospitality, because government financial support will be lost while trading restrictions remain, potentially after New Year which is when the business is at its quietest. “But there are no clear dates,” he said, emphasising the corrosive effect of the uncertainty. “If we’re still restricted [under orange], with no support whatsoever, I’d probably rather be in red [than orange] and

lockdown pain and frustration



But it was the raw messages from the series of speakers that rang the loudest.

Wilson said he wasn't a soft guy, but his staff were struggling and "I am too".

"Then we're possibly going to have protesters out here because we're a vaccination pro-venue, because we have to be to reopen."

Morgan told of her savings draining away. "Every single second we aren't open is a cost."

With 700 clients she had rescheduled appointments on multiple occasions, but some days when she thought of her beloved salon "I feel like burning the place down."

Hospitality business owners from Half Moon Bay, Gina and Clinton Henry, said things had got so bad that their young son had offered his upset mother \$10 from his piggy bank. After 10 years building a business they were now selling assets to keep it afloat.

In developing Smales Farm, Greg Smale

told the Observer that hospitality had always been at the heart of the vision, to ensure the commercial and soon-to-be residential centre attracted people. "You need good operators – it sets the tone for the area. If you don't have good hospitality the city is dead."

As a landlord, he had assisted with rent relief, despite having lost big tenants himself, including Air New Zealand, due to Covid.

He was frustrated by inconsistent decision-making, which meant some businesses could not trade at all, while others were virtually unaffected.

His wife, Felicity, said hospitality was a more of a skilled industry filled with passionate people than it was given credit for.

Hairdressing was another under-appreciated service industry. She felt for stylists having been out of action for so long.

"The hairdresser gets one cut, instead of three."

... and counting

wait because we can get the subsidy."

Wilson believed the traffic light should already be green.

If the Government had moved Auckland to step three of Level 3, rather than waiting to shift the whole country to the traffic light system, it could have allowed more people in venues than the red light will, he says.

"We've got 1000 square metres of liquor licence area, with 750 of that outdoors."

Health expert Professor Des Gorman had assured him this was the safest place for socialising, yet he was unable to use his two large deck areas to full capacity, let alone his indoor dining areas.

Wilson is thankful, however, that he is able to spread tables out more than street-side venues. They are keen to expand their al fresco dining footprint, but are waiting to hear if Auckland Council will waive fees in December.

"They're running out of time to sort the outdoors component."

Board backs waiving of outdoor dining fee

Waiving fees for dining al fresco to boost North Shore centres post-lockdown has the backing of the Devonport Takapuna Local Board.

Board member George Wood told a board meeting last week that Auckland mayor Phil Goff had talked about allowing bars and restaurants to use footpaths for dining al fresco without paying fees. "Takapuna's going to have to be an area that we're going to have to nurture back to [its] former self," Wood said. The centres of Milford and Devonport were added to his motion.

An Auckland Council spokeswoman said all existing outdoor dining licenses will be automatically extended, without cost, until Auckland returns to alert level 1, or the green traffic light level, or until 18 February, whichever is earlier. The outdoor dining license fee costs \$382, with an annual rental on top. But the council could not do the same with alcohol licenses as it is constrained by the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act.

Hairdresser's year from hell – now the rush

More than 500 emails awaited Takapuna hair salon Morgan & Morgan the morning after the sudden announcement that the service could reopen this week. Co-founder Jennifer Morgan said: "We're really thrilled to be open, but somewhat anxious about how it's going to work."

Many clients booked for December were desperate to come in sooner on news that the industry would be a test case for retail vaccine passport use.

"The time frame around this is a nightmare," said Morgan. "It's brutal." No information was immediately available to salons on how a planned shop scanning regime might work. Morgan expects it will be a case of doing spot checks about vaccine status. "I'm disappointed the Government has so little idea of what we do."

This was meant to be a year to celebrate 20 years in business for the salon, but Morgan, says she and other hairdressers face a frightening future after more than three months of lost income. "We've survived lots of things... but nothing like this," she says. Yes, she expects to be run off her feet when the salon reopens, but that won't make up for four months of lost income and receding dreams of eventual retirement.

Out the window went \$380,000 in sales and the ability to set aside money to pay provisional tax. "The money is gone," she says. It was spent on general business costs and topping up wages beyond the government subsidy for as long as she could. "Now I have debt that I didn't create."

With provisional taxes due in January, March and April, and word from her accountant that Inland Revenue does not seem overly sympathetic to making arrangements for businesses like hers, the prospect is that she will be paying off the tax shortfall for a long time.

Morgan believes decision-makers in Wellington are not fully aware of the huge impact Covid restrictions have put on Auckland businesses. "The government closed us down and we haven't been given enough to avoid debt."

While she appreciated the wage subsidy when Covid first hit, by this year she said a more nuanced approach to support should have been adopted, with those hardest hit getting more.

Morgan would have liked to have reopened sooner, especially when close-contact services such as Botox, teeth-whitening and acupuncture were able to.

After 34 years in the hairdressing business, Morgan worries that "at my age and stage I no longer have the fire in me to rebuild".

Council seeks tweaks to government's housing law

A maximum building site coverage of 45 per cent should apply in a new medium density zone across the city, Auckland Council says in a submission to Parliament's environment select committee.

The government wants to introduce a 50 per cent coverage in the new zone contained in the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters Amendment) Bill.

The medium-density zone would also allow three three-storey homes on most sites around Auckland, although protections will be allowed for "qualifying matters" including some heritage properties, open space and natural features.

Auckland Council and its local boards have questioned the government's push for intensification, as managed growth was already allowed for in the Auckland Unitary Plan. However, with the bill supported by both Labour and National, the council has accepted it will become law and sought amendments which include:

- An increase in front yards from 2.5m to 4m.
- An increase in outdoor-living space from 15sqm to 20sqm, with a minimum of two hours' sunlight in mid-winter.
- Changes to height-to-boundary ratios to give more sun and privacy.

- A minimum landscaped area of 35 per cent per site, with at least one tree capable of growing 6m in the front yard.
- Design parameters to encourage quality developments.

The council has accepted a new building height across the city of 11m.

The single house zone – which will be effectively be abolished by the bill – and covers North Shore's Golden Mile from Milford to Clifton Rd at the southern end of Takapuna Beach only receives a passing mention in the council submission.

"In many cases zones that enable two rather than three storeys and/or limit housing densities (eg the Single House zone and Mixed Housing Suburban zone) are in place to protect and enhance the natural environment in an urban setting."

Much of Milford, Sunnynook and Forrest Hill is currently zoned Mixed Housing Suburban.

Heritage concerns in areas like Devonport receive no direct attention in the submission.

The infrastructure implications of the rapid growth are laid bare by council, which says massive investment by government will be needed to keep up with the building boom.

Moreover, growth on the outer fringes of the city away from transport nodes may be counterproductive to the bill's intensification goals of a more compact city.

"It will encourage a dispersed growth pattern in locations that are currently not well served by public transport, and in some cases never will be."

Transport planning takes years to implement and will inevitably fall behind growth.

"A dispersed medium density housing zone... will leave some communities with sub-optimal access to employment, education, parks and community facilities.

Well-functioning urban environments were about much more than housing supply," it said.

The government bill overrides the Auckland Unitary Plan, which was created democratically with more than 23,000 pieces of written feedback considered, along with more than 9000 primary submissions on the proposed plan.

"The council is concerned the bill in its current form overrides the ability of councils to determine planning rules appropriate to their area through public consultation.

"The bill compromises local democracy. It decouples planning decisions from local elected members... local politicians will have little influence over many of the planning provisions to be notified by August 2022, but will be held accountable by the public," the council said.

North Shore councilor and Auckland Council Planning committee chair Chris Darby said given the government's determination to push through the bill with urgency, the council was forced to advocate as best it could for the key parts of its unitary plan, particularly around design protocols.

"We had to think 'how could we get the best possible outcome here?'"

Auckland Council provided clear evidence sufficient "development opportunities" existed under its planning structure.

Work on the bill had put back other council planning investigations, such as mapping walkable catchment zones in Takapuna which allowed six storey developments. These were now due in February, he said.

Tree lovers oppose density drive

The Tree Council is among groups submitting against housing intensification plans.

It says the government directives put diminishing urban tree stocks at even greater risk. It has also sought a High Court judicial review of Auckland Council's freeze on processing tree protections.

Over nearly a decade, the council has taken no action over 587 nominations to schedule trees as notable under the Unitary Plan.

Tree Council chair Sean Freeman said its

legal advice was that Auckland Council had an obligation under the Resource Management Act (RMA) to maintain its Notable Trees Schedule. It was outrageous that it was not doing so. It was also an insult to those people who nominated the trees.

Freeman said it would be surprising if more than 10 per cent of the nominated trees still stood, given the massive loss of trees on private land since general tree protection was removed from the act.

Simon Watts MP for North Shore

National Party Spokesperson for ACC,
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Fate of grove boardwalk stirs strong feelings

The future of Sacred Grove / Te Uru Tapu remains uncertain after a meeting which brought fresh perspectives to what should happen to the ancient pohutukawa grove above Takapuna Beach

From page 1

having been advised by council officers more than once that an application for resource consents to fix the boardwalk and manage the trees is unlikely to succeed, due to the state of the trees and the wahi tapu nature of the site.

A deputation of iwi representatives added weight to this message at the meeting which was held remotely. Two speakers suggested the matter of wahi tapu on a reserve elevated the issue beyond the board's preserve into being a Treaty of Waitangi issue.

"So I'm not sure why it was even tabled at board level," Te Kawerau a Maki representative Edward Ashby said. The Takapuna resident said if the health and tapu of the trees were compromised "we will be looking at this".

Staff told the Observer this week that they were now working through the board's resolutions before deciding the project's next steps. They will meet with mana whenua to gain an understanding of how they want to be involved.

Several other submitters at the meeting asked board members what sort of legacy they wished to leave both environmentally and in terms of partnership.

"Are you going to say you paved paradise and put up a boardwalk?" asked Tabitha Becroft, environmental co-ordinator for the Pupuke Birds Project. The area was being degraded just by having the boardwalk there and trimming the trees would make it worse, she said.

To board questions, council arborist Steve Crebs said the area should be closed "in perpetuity". Too many trees (8 of 19) were a safety risk needing intervention if a boardwalk was restored, he said.

Member Aidan Bennett said the community had made clear it wanted access, while also wanting the trees treated in a sensitive manner. This could be achieved, he maintained, and supplemented with education and signage done in conjunction with iwi.

"It's a very special walk, the trees are special and it's cool in the summer," Bennett said. He challenged several speakers over the need for the board to deliver what people wanted.

Gabriel Kirkwood, of Ngai Tai Ki Tamaki, replied: "I implore the board to find other opportunities to have the public engage with the trees than walking through them."

Bennett said he worried that closing the area and removing the boardwalk structure, as officers had recommended, could cause more damage, with people breaching fences and trampling through the undergrowth rather than being channelled above it.

Jackson said issues with drinking and drug-taking had been noted in the area both before the boardwalk was built around 20



Silent sentinels... The pohutukawa of Sacred Grove stand behind newly installed temporary fencing, while many beachgoers remain unaware of their story

years ago and since it was temporarily fenced off in 2018 for maintenance which had not been done. A homeless person had been hanging clothes from trees there recently, she said.

"These things are not appropriate."

Jan O'Connor wanted to know why it was okay with mana whenua to have boardwalks in the Waitakeres, but not at Sacred Grove. Ashby said the situations and locations were different. "In most contexts you can work through a compromise," he said. But this situation did not recognise the mauri and tapu.

Member Trish Deans asked about those different circumstances and was told: "Here it is connected directly to our atua and tipuna." A degree of reverence and separation was needed, Ashby said. It was also degrading that people ate among the trees.

The meeting was the first time the board has heard direct from mana whenua. It has requested meetings, with staff saying Covid had got in the way.

Residents from the apartments above the grove have made several previous submissions. They repeated their requests for better tree maintenance and a boardwalk reopening (see page 10).

A petition circulated among beach users gained more than 2500 signatures this year. Communications around it have been criticised for implying mana whenua support, which Ashby roundly denied his iwi had offered.

Jackson said the board "seeks to find a solution which balances differing views and needs". It wasn't a case of mana whenua versus the community, she said, but of acknowledging both. The board had wanted

korero for some time and welcomed the opportunity.

The board's recommendations – framed by Jackson before speakers presented – would limit access to the grove to the boardwalk and block off disused entrances, while retaining a southern path to the beach at the edge of the site from The Sands apartments. The stone lookout would remain accessible from the Promenade and from steps above.

George Wood said the board would have to push against delays.

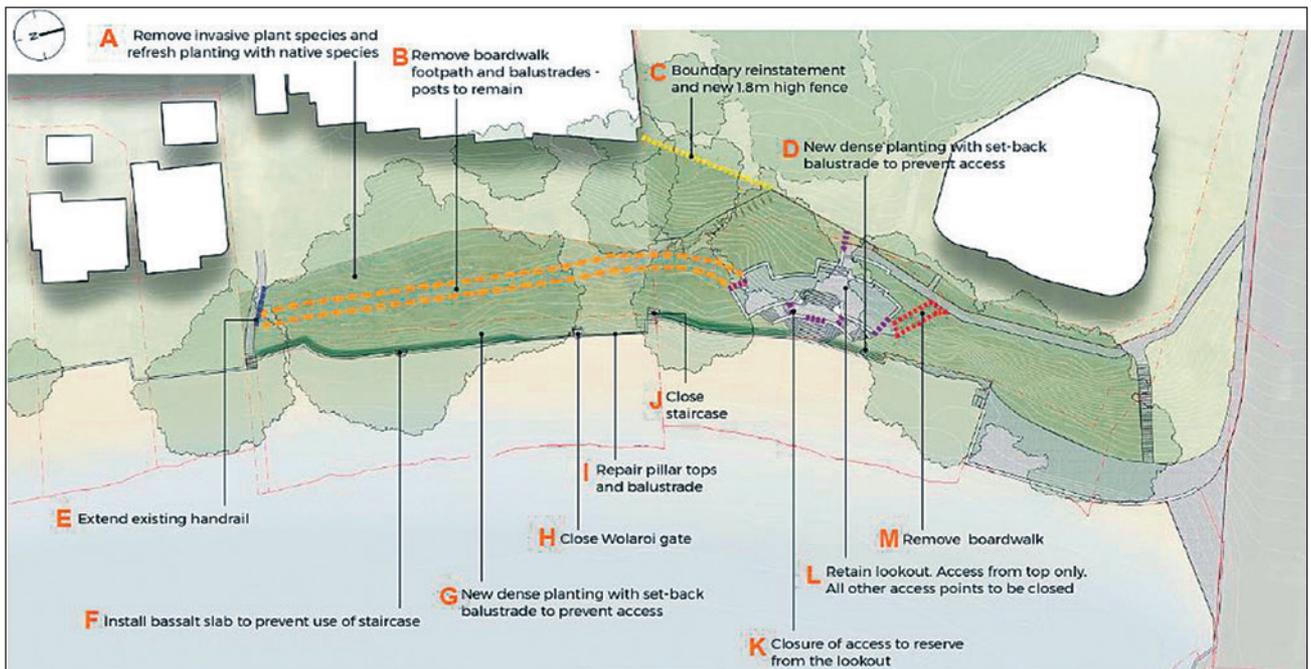
An "in principal" budget allocation of \$1,051,126 towards the Takapuna Beach Development Plan includes \$881,000 for work on Te Uru Tapu. Jackson wants a revised budget to take in changes, including the board's wish to abandon staff plans to dismantle the boardwalk's sub-structure. The board also wants a say on any plans for cameras or lighting in the grove.

Van Tonder said she felt the wider community did not have the same understanding yet of the issues that had been brought to the board's attention.

"We know better now and still we are not doing the right things."

She asked Ashby if mana whenua would be willing to help with signage and pou. He said discussions about "long-standing mana-enhancing elements" had already taken place with council officials. As to retaining access to the lookout, he said he did not speak for all mana whenua groups, but: "I understand at a compromise level there's some support for that."

"Everyone values this area, it just depends what lens you're coming from – everyone agrees we can do better."



No access... a graphic presentation of an option to remove the southern and northern boardwalk (shown in orange and red) which are already blocked off. Staff recommended access to the stone lookout above the northern end of the beach be restricted to steps coming down from a path in front of apartments, but the board wants the boardwalk kept here as a flat approach and a compromise on this aspect seems likely.

Endangered ecosystem irreplaceable – environmentalist

Te Uru Tapu is a forest remnant that is “absolutely special”, says an environmental champion.

Learning of the issues around it had stirred her passions to call for its protection, Tabitha Becroft, co-ordinator for the Pupuke Birdsong Project, told the board: “Let it be.”

The grove was actually a rare example of the ancient broadleaf forest that once covered the Devonport-Takapuna area. Massive pohutukawa, puriri and other natives once supported abundant insect life.

“Today the only representation we have of that is this tiny, tiny little remnant down at Takapuna Beach. It’s more endangered than kiwi, as endangered as yellow-eyed penguin.”

Becroft said the grove was the only accessible pocket of such forest on public land remaining along the North Shore’s east coast. Bush on private property did not have the same

protection, making safeguarding the grove doubly important, so what remained could thrive. “An eco-system is what will bring back the bird life.”

This included not just the trees, but their understorey. “That is why we really need to protect it – without a boardwalk.”

Root compaction and people chopping down trees for view shafts had damaged the grove. Keeping people and dogs out would also allow fallen trees to be left to grow on the forest floor, as pohutukawa could, rather than requiring they be removed.

Diverse eco-systems were more likely to survive climate change, said Becroft, but they needed to be managed well. Open access jeopardised fragile examples.

The local area had few examples of such eco-systems, said Becroft, pointing to puriri forest at Sylvan Park, Milford, and kahikatea

remnants in Smiths Bush East. Te Uru Tapu was the other key area.

When people thought of Takapuna they thought of golden sands, fringed by pohutukawa, she said. “The pohutukawa are our little piece of paradise.”

Board member Aidan Bennett quizzed her as to why Te Uru Tapu should be treated differently from Lyford Bush in Sunnynook, an area Becroft has done a lot of planting in.

Lyford was mainly pine and wattle, she said. “At Te Uru Tapu people are degrading the environment just being there and the boardwalk is degrading it, then trimming the trees for health and safety makes it worse.

“You’re prioritising people’s feet on a boardwalk for maybe 20 years [life of the structure] over this ecosystem that we just can’t replace.”

• Iwi and neighbour perspectives: see P 10

Pruning trees ‘has parallels to Taliban’s wrecking of Buddhas’

Pruning Sacred Grove pohutukawa to allow the boardwalk through them to reopen is akin to cultural vandalism, says a regular beach user.

Instead, their status as “majestic ancestors” should be recognised, said Melissa Firth, a Bayswater resident who made a submission to the local board.

The question that needed asking was: “Are we custodians that elevate culture?”

Firth – who has a background at Te Papa working in digital transformation, including bicultural presentation – said the board’s role in Treaty of Waitangi partnership required consideration. Removing the boardwalk would be an identity-defining choice.

The issues of one culture’s impact on another had parallels with the destruction of the Buddhas of Bamiyan by the Taliban, said Firth.

While acknowledging that the loss of heritage in Afghanistan was on a different scale, she said the trees were wahi tapu and removing eight of them to keep the boardwalk open would be cultural vandalism.

“We don’t have built monuments, but we do have Te Ao Maori,” she noted. The grove’s ancient pohutukawa were not just trees inconveniencing locals. “They are taonga and history.”

“Let people walk the two minutes around the road,” she said. “I trust you will make the only decision that represents the natural envi-

ronment. To keep the boardwalk brings people in and spells the destruction of those trees.”

To a question from member Toni van Tonder about a petition to reopen the area, Firth said its framing made it sound like the public was losing something in the boardwalk, so it had gained support, yet “a more objective layout of the issues would have a different result”.

She had not personally considered the area a public one, until the circulation of the petition. Despite having lived much of her life in the area, Firth said she had known little of the grove’s history. Education about it could involve the community in a new way from the cultural enrichment perspective.

Iwi leader says it 'never signed off on boardwalk'

Mana whenua representatives want to see Te Uru Tapu protected as a wahi tapu site.

Representing Te Kawerau a Maki, Edward Ashby said it was hard to listen to some discussion regarding the Sacred Grove because "the wahi tapu element seems to be lost".

Ashby said his iwi had never signed off on the boardwalk through the grove. It was now a bit late in the piece to be talking about the need for korero on the site's future.

"All for the sake of people who don't want to walk 60 seconds or less around the boat ramp," he said.

"You can have all the korero you want," Ashby told the board, but if the ecological significance and the tapu was compromised the first principal of protection was lost.

"If the health [of the trees] and tapu is compromised, we will be looking at this."

Gabriel Kirkwood of Ngai Tai Ki Tamaki said Ashby had hit the nail on the head. "The site is a wahi tapu and our position is we will go to any length to protect it."

The men were part of a deputation that included four representatives of other iwi.

Kirkwood told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board: "It's a little bit rich that it has come to this stage – we've made our views clear a couple of years ago." His iwi was firm on the boardwalk being removed and tapu recognised. "We're not convinced reinstating that boardwalk can help the health of those rakau [trees]."

Ashby said he was also concerned that iwi views were being separated out. "We go back 32-plus generations here, so if that is not community I don't know what is."

On a personal note he lived in Park Ave and walked past Te Uru Tapu every single day. "I certainly don't eat my icecreams there and throw my rubbish in the bin that is placed there."

The site had been mismanaged in the past, he said. The original and ongoing idea of allowing passage through a sacred space was flawed.



All angles... Towering pohutukawa, some stopped up and blocked off

The trees are our ancestors – elder

Kaumata Bill Kapea, who was the acting kaitiaki for Ngati Whatua Orakei leading into the building of the boardwalk in the early 2000s, spoke during the public forum of the board meeting.

He acknowledged that it had stopped some "unsavoury activity" that had been going on in Te Uru Tapu, but said pou kaitiaki to welcome and farewell people were never put in. At the time, the trees were healthy, he said, "apart from a few interventions by a couple of residents to get a better view".

Kapea said the iwi never supported the building of the boardwalk. "It just never opposed it because back then it just happened."

He said he was a regular walker at the beach, and had a 30-year association with waka ama there, an activity that would ideally be based near the Takapuna Boating Club. In tandem with better recognition of Te Uru Tapu there was a "wonderful opportunity down there – a whole narrative that is so rich".

For better outcomes, including addressing a resumption in anti-social activity, he advised korero. This should include apartment dwellers as community members in the presence of the trees, he said.

It's not just about tipuna [having burial rituals] in the trees, but the trees are ancestors," said Kapea.

Apartment owners: Opening boardwalk would be a win-win

Residents of apartments above the Sacred Grove say there is no evidence the boardwalk through it has damaged the trees.

Their spokesman, Allan Morris, said the closing of the boardwalk in 2018 was a distraction to the real and ongoing issue of tree management. "Everybody wants to respect and protect the trees and have them about for future generations," he told the board.

This could be done with the boardwalk reopened, which would also help deter recent anti-social activity behind the grove's temporary fences. Removing the structure, as Auckland Council officers had proposed, would result in more people trampling the ground area.

Keeping the boardwalk fenced off was to the detriment of the local community, said Morris. A win/win solution would see the trees preserved and use of the area retained in a sensitive

manner that recognised its cultural significance.

"This special area is not in a forest and bush setting, it's in an urban environment and surrounded by properties. From a community point of view it's about the beach and the boardwalk."

He questioned high costs cited by Auckland Council to reopen the area, saying a separate report had found the boardwalk was generally in good condition apart from its treads. This meant a resource consent might not be needed for rebuilding. Morris also questioned the light-touch approach to the trees. Council arborists had said pohutukawa did not respond well to pruning – "but people who live there have seen significant regrowth after pruning".

If tree canopies within the grove had been thinned previously, root structures would not now face so much pressure, he maintained.

A council report says that to allow the

boardwalk to safely reopen, trees would require extensive propping and pruning and some removal. Officials do not support doing this work.

"If nothing is done we will have a health and safety problem with the trees," said Morris, repeating his view that if it is accepted trees in the grove are a safety risk, then some of them must also be a risk to beach users as well, given they overhang the sands.

The council's idea of installing security cameras was a radical response to previous tree damage, he said, with this caused by "very much the minority".

"We don't need the intrusive nature of CCTV," he said. Locals could police the area, he said

- A council spokesperson told the Observer it had no updates into investigations into tree vandalism that occurred several months ago.



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Prepared for re-entry! Shoppers enjoy retail's return



Bench buddies... Marian Nicholls (left) and Marie Taylor stop off in Milford for a coffee break. The two had had a ball, with Marie buying a skirt she had had her eye on for a long time and Marian buying her son a shirt. They had chatted to a stranger, learning a lot about fruit, they laughed. After being cooped up so long, Marian noted: "Everybody's speaking to everybody today."

Spirits were high this month when retailers were finally able to welcome customers back inside, as the Observer found in a wander round Takapuna and Milford shopping centres



Revvng up... Alana Vale at Tosca and Salome in Takapuna was happy to be back seeing customers despite a fairly quiet opening day. "It's been nice to see faces."



Regulars help out... Life for Men owner Scott Donovan said the Takapuna store had been relying on its database for trading. "We've had massive support from that but when it comes to the rest of the street and passing traffic, there is none," he said.



Julian Curran at Claire Designer Boutique, where owner Claire Humphries says local support keeps shops like hers going



Feeling it... Ruby on Hurstmere Rd has had a steady stream of customers, manager Madeleine Davidson (left), pictured with sales assistant Sophie Macpherson says. “Everyone is just in a really good mood. I think everyone’s been patiently waiting to come and touch things and try things on.”

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Bells are ringing... The Christmas Heirloom Company has popped up in Shore City for six weeks this year rather than its usual three months. Brett McDermott said everybody had been in good spirits. "They seem to all be happy to get out and shop."


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White on... Ruth Shannon, owner of The French Villa at the Milford Centre, says she has plenty of Christmas stock, partly thanks to items that ran late last year. "We had a lot of people yesterday banging on the window saying, 'I want this!'"



Stepping out... Mikko shoes manager Jo Walker said shoppers were out with intent. "Some of them just want to spend, that sensation of spending. It's like they're at the starting gate." Business overall at the Milford store was steady rather than manic, but she thought some people may have held off fearing crowds.



Browsers welcome... Ash Lawson (left) and Bree Bonzon-Liu were happy to be back at Creative and Brave in Takapuna's mall where a lot of customers were looking for Christmas gifts. "It's nice to have people back."



Day tripper... Sue Warrick had come from Takapuna to Milford, visiting MorArt where she was looked after by owner Debbie Morgan. Warrick said it was wonderful to be able to shop again. "It's like being let out of jail, isn't it?" Morgan said television coverage of queues at city malls the night before reopening had likely put off some customers.

Covid restrictions take a toll on summer events

A skateboard clinic and a festival of play are among North Shore events that have become casualties of Covid-19 restrictions, and more in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area may follow.

At a workshop this month, the board was updated on how events supported by their \$20,000 of community money for parks, places and open spaces, and delivered by different community groups, were affected by Covid regulations.

Five activities planned for November and early December, including the Wellness Riders Skateboard Clinic at Greville Reserve and the Wild Streets Festival of Play, now need to be rescheduled, probably until early 2022.

Recreation advisor Sunny Karan said officials had anticipated being in level 2 or lower by now but they were playing the situation by ear.

Other boards had supported moving the planned events to the late summer school holidays, or late December, he said.

Board member Toni van Tonder asked how vaccination certificates would work under the traffic light system, as the events were for children, and whether parents would need to be vaccinated for their children to attend. Karan said officials were following the lead of Sport New Zealand who were working through it. "There's a lot of grey areas," he said.

"It's like a moving beast," acting board chair Jan O'Connor said.

Nature events at Sylvan Park are scheduled for two days in mid-December, and a pop-up play day and a beach day are scheduled for Milford in January.

Junk play, a circus in the park and a kite day are set for Kennedy Park in March and April 2022, as are several Devonport events.

Taharoto Rd in line for cycle-lane upgrade



A section of painted cycleway on Taharoto Rd will be separated from traffic within three years. The stretch runs 1500m from Anzac St to Shakespeare Rd.

Originally, the work was on a list of projects to be done over five years, but Auckland Transport (AT) has shortened the delivery time for its \$30 million Minor Cycling Programme, covering 60km of routes across Auckland. The aim is to more quickly improve safety and to encourage cycling.

Start dates are not set yet for items on the list, but the commitment has been welcomed by outgoing Bike Auckland chair, Barb Cuthbert, who said adding physical protection to existing painted lanes would make them more visible to drivers and deter passing traffic from encroaching into them.

"It's not the ultimate answer, but we

welcome it as a worthwhile upgrade to encourage more people to use the existing cycling network, with improved safety," she said.

Lake Rd on the Devonport peninsula is also in for attention, but where the 950-metres of work will be done there is yet to be pinned down, as wider road upgrades are not yet at the detailed-design stage.

Protected cycle lanes are designed to physically separate cyclists from people driving and people walking.

This is done by using various forms of separation, including planter boxes, concrete kerbs, flex-posts, or berm space.

AT said the separation method chosen for each project would consider cost-effectiveness relative to the location. In most cases installation would take one to three nights.

Community projects win funding injection of 23k

Community groups are receiving a \$23,000 boost from Devonport-Takapuna Local Board coffers.

A total of \$36,402.85 was requested by 21 applicants for the first round of Devonport-Takapuna 'Quick Response' grants for 2021/2022. The board approved \$23,064 of funding, for the following projects:

- North Shore Theatre and Arts Trust (The PumpHouse Theatre) – \$1500 towards Christmas carols in the PumpHouse amphitheatre in December.
- Depot Arts and Music Space Trust – \$2000 towards *Two Truths and a Lie* exhibition in March 2022.
- Art in the Dark Trust – \$1500 towards HER Festival in April 2022.
- Auckland Multicultural Society – \$1500 towards Lakeside Multicultural Festival 2022 next March.
- Our Women's Network (Takapuna Community Facilities Trust) – \$745 towards Older Women's Network Festival in May 2022.
- Forrest Hill Community Garden Charitable Trust – \$1979 towards a lockable garden shed.
- Local Life NZ (Devonport Community House) – \$1000 towards website and poster boards.
- Epilepsy Association of New Zealand – \$250 towards educator's fuel costs for support services.
- Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust – \$1500 towards counselling services and in-school promotion of services.
- Physically Disabled and Able-Bodied Association Auckland – \$489 towards PHABulous Fun Summer Celebration for 200 disabled young people.
- Road Safety Education – \$250 for road safety programme for students from Rosmini College.
- The Wilson Home – \$1500 towards a petting zoo for a three-day Wilson Home Trust Christmas Party.
- The Scouts Association of NZ and Calliope Sea Scouts – \$1000 towards the purchase of uniforms.
- Takapuna Community Facilities Trust – \$1000 towards the purchase of plants.
- Lake Pupuke Tennis Club – \$1500 towards purchasing a defibrillator.
- Belmont Park Bowling Club – \$1000 towards purchasing and installing sunshades.
- Milford Bowling Club – \$1000 towards repainting ladies' toilets.
- Paul Cornish – \$601 towards promotion of the Jets run season in Devonport from 1 December to 30 March.
- Waitemata Golf Club – \$1250 towards starter pack for free junior-golf programme.
- Ngataranga Tennis Club – \$1000 towards replacing deteriorated fence posts supporting the tennis court fences.

Feedback call on Forrest Hill shops parking

Public feedback has been invited on parking restrictions proposed outside shops on Grenada Ave, Forrest Hill.

Auckland Transport (AT) says two-hour time limits on parking outside the businesses at 1-11 Grenada Ave will free up spaces for shoppers. Time limits will also apply on mobility parking spaces.

Details are on the AT website, with feedback closing on 1 December.

Beach parking lost to summer building project

Ten car parks near Takapuna Beach will stay blocked off this summer as work continues on a new toilet block and changing rooms.

The removal of trees for the work has upset some beach users, with a member of an informal group of regular ocean swimmers telling the Observer they had been shocked last month to find trees being cut down and car parks blocked off.

“We’re angry about the trees and angry about lack of consultation with swimmers, kite surfers and other beach users,” she said.

Auckland Council’s manager of area operations for Community Facilities, Sarah Jones, said angled parking on the Gould Reserve side of The Strand had to be reduced to allow for construction.

This is expected to take until late May next year, when the block with enhanced disabled facilities will be opened.

“Because it is such a popular beach we needed to keep the existing facilities open and did our best to keep the reduction of parks to a minimum,” said Jones.

“However, we need enough space to access the construction site, to protect the pohutukawa trees at the reserve and to lay down materials.”

One pohutukawa tree was being removed to enable the works, she said, but it was to be stored and replanted later.

“One phoenix palm, one poplar, two karo and two karaka trees are being removed permanently to be replaced by at least five



Not bog standard... the new Takapuna Beach toilet block replacing this one will have a room and toilet for people with major disabilities

specimen trees at the end of the project,” said Jones.

Asked about community consultation, Jones said the project team had notified the Takapuna Beach Business Association, iwi and other stakeholders. Project and information signs would be put on site soon, to let the wider public know what was going on.

The new toilet-block design includes a new Changing Places room and toilet for people with profound and complex disabilities who cannot use standard accessible toilets. It also has a ceiling hoist and an adult

change table.

This section of the work is being funded by Takapuna philanthropists the Reeves family, with the rest of the project funded by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

The new block, uphill from the existing facility where more play equipment will be sited, will also provide four standard toilets, one accessible toilet, a family-sized toilet and male and female changing rooms, each with a shower and toilet.

It will also offer an external shower, drinking fountain and seating, and incorporate energy- and water-saving fixtures.

Extra mobility-permit spaces planned near playground

Mobility permit holders will get better access to Takapuna Beach parking by the middle of next year.

Allocated spaces will be increased by Auckland Transport (AT) from five to nine, with the loss of six paid parking spaces on The Strand.

The spaces are near the playground on Gould Reserve and the public toilets and

changing sheds where upgrades are under way to make the facilities better suited to people of all abilities.

AT will repurpose the parks between April and June, in what it says is a response to requests to make parking more accessible. Spaces will be made wider with easier access to the footpath.

A paid parking spot will be lost to widen two existing accessible spaces near the playground.

Outside the toilets, four paid parking spaces will be converted to three mobility spaces, with access to an existing ramp.

Further up The Strand, opposite Channel View Rd, a paid parking space will become a mobility space.

Plaque wanted to remind visitors of park’s JFK link



A plaque may be laid at Kennedy Park in Castor Bay (pictured at left) as a reminder the place was named for assassinated US president John F Kennedy.

That association has been lost over time, says a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member, Jan O’Connor, who last week put forward the idea of a memorial plaque giving its full name – J F Kennedy Memorial Park.

The board agreed to consider a memorial plaque and to request a park sign with the full name.

“I think it was the council mayor at the time [who had it] named after him,” O’Connor said. “I think it’s sad when the memories of the right name have slipped away.”

Kennedy was killed on 22 November 1963. O’Connor said according to the park’s management plan, the Northern Military District previously owned what was then Castor Bay Defence Reserve and made it available to Takapuna City Council for public recreation. “President Kennedy’s military service had been with the US Navy in the Solomon Islands and the world was shocked at his assassination. It seemed appropriate to name this park, with its amazing views of the Hauraki Gulf, after him.”



Ginger group resumes long-term project in reserve

A 50-year plan to turn Lyford Reserve into native bush restarted last weekend with a group of volunteers (pictured above) attacking ginger.

Tabitha Becroft (left) of the Sunnook Community Association, gathered with the Marshall whanau – Liz, Arley (11) and Sari (13), and Andrew – and Damon Nicholas (right) at the reserve for work.

Becroft said it was the first time volunteers could get together after several months of lockdown. The group had been working on the reserve since 2016.

“We’ve been doing weeding and there was no path, so the Sunnook Community

Association started on a mission to get a path through here,” Becroft said. “It’s really, really made the park, because now people can actually use it – and it’s used a lot.”

Children from Sunnook Primary next door also help, and community art made from natural materials is displayed.

The plan is to eventually have only native plants. Weeds and then the wattle trees will be removed.

“And then, maybe in 50 years, the pines, because the pines make really good homes for owls,” Becroft said. The under storey of vegetation was native. “So slowly, over time, it transforms into a native forest.”



Forest floor finds... Lyford Reserve has become a showcase for community made art, provided it’s nature friendly



Jabbed campaign takes off

A campaign led by the publishers of the Rangitoto Observer, Devonport Publishing Ltd, has been taken up in other areas.

Chris Harrop, managing director of You Travel Mairangi Bay, noticed the signs around Devonport telling shoppers that a staff in a good number of businesses were all fully vaccinated.

He put the concept to the Mairangi Business Investment District (BID) manager who produced a modified version for its area.

Devonport BID manager Katherine Downs said the initiative had been a great idea.

After an initial distribution, the Flagstaff has had multiple calls from other businesses wanting to display the signs

- Displaying the signs is entirely voluntary. They simply note the vaccination status of those working on a business premises. No judgement is made about the vaccination status of customers.

If you are interested in obtaining a free sign or finding out more contact us at: news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz

Sign of the times... Terrie Gray of Paradox Books with a ‘Jabbed’ sign at the door of her Devonport shop

Mystery beach box obstructs high-tide strollers

I was interested to read the recent article in the Rangitoto Observer about the three-storey family home being built on an expansive multimillion-dollar site perched above Takapuna Beach.

The new owners have constructed a small white building in front of this property which sits right on the beach. This is creating a real problem for beach walkers. At high tide they can no longer reach the end of the beach without getting their feet wet as they must walk around it.

Imagine how cold all those feet will get wading into the water in the winter. It will also make it difficult to get to the popular Takapuna Beach Café.

I have been told that Auckland Council GeoMaps show that the boundary of their property does extend some way over the beach. So it might be legal, but I consider it very selfish.

This wealthy family acquired three adjoining sections on which to build their new beachside mansion. Why did they feel they needed to take up more space to add this mystery box. It has no door, roof or windows, so what is its purpose? If it was put there to solve a problem surely there



would have been another way around it which would have not created such a public nuisance. It is very disappointing that this has happened. I hope that they can be persuaded to remove it,

Lyn Potter

Editor's note: The Observer has contacted Auckland Council regarding the conditions of planning consent for this development and also a spokesperson for the property owner for comment. A reply had not been received by deadline.

Write to the Observer

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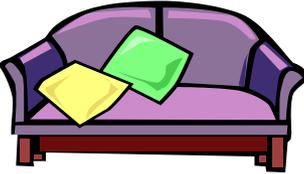
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Albany Rosedale Motel

Full-time Motel Housekeeping Manager

We are currently looking for a motel housekeeping manager. We offer great working conditions with a friendly and vibrant team-culture.

The responsibilities include:

- To be responsible for supervising all rooms, public area, customer satisfaction, and phone calls with other departments
- To provide the highest quality standards in customer service
- Checking in and checking out guests
- Answering to emails in a timely manner
- Answering internal and external phone calls
- Resolving billing queries and guest complaints
- Assisting customers with any needs
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills (English, Korean, and Chinese)
- Friendly personality
- Strong organisational and time management skills

Please send us your CV to albanyrosedalemotel@gmail.com.

Given the huge number of applications we get, we cannot reply to every email we receive. We apologise for this in advance.

The Officers Mess

Front of House and Bar Staff

The Officers Mess in Devonport is looking for Front of House and Bar Staff for our December events and through the Summer months.

The successful candidates will be working weddings, Christmas parties, corporate functions and special occasions.

We are a family run business in Devonport entering our tenth year of operations and we are looking forward to a busy 2022 season packed full of events.

We would love you to come and work in our fun, friendly and safe environment.

Please contact Fiona on 021-021-88855 for a chat, or email:

fiona@theofficersmess.co.nz

The Officers Mess

Events Manager

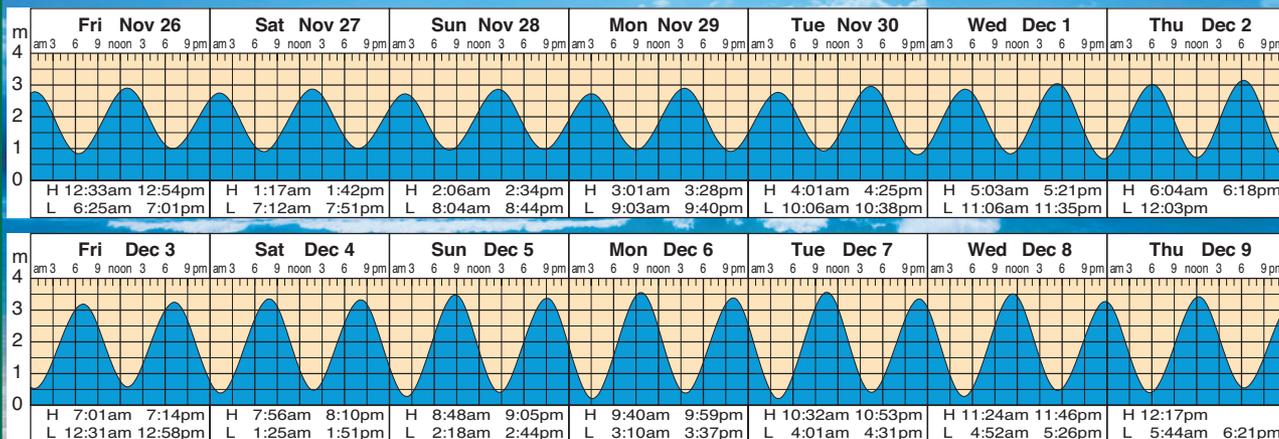
We are looking for an Events Manager to plan and deliver our events. Ideally, you will have three years' experience with delivering weddings, or other large-scale functions within a professional environment.

Key attributes

- Confidence managing multiple stakeholders including clients and third-party vendors
- Experience with taking stock and making orders (beverages only)
- Confidence liaising between our Head Chef and clients regarding menu selections, allergens, last-minute changes
- A calm demeanour under pressure, when dealing with clients, last-minute changes and issues on the day
- Interest in food and wine
- Comfortable with acting as "the face" of The Officers Mess on event days and during planning meetings such as tastings and walk-throughs
- Hold a Current General Managers Certificate
- Managing our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Please send your resumé and cover letter to fiona@theofficersmess.co.nz

Milford / Takapuna Tides





WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library

Kia Ora — we're back!

We're so glad to be able to welcome you back inside Takapuna Library. You can't see it but we're all smiling behind our masks!

Thank you for your support and patience as we've worked to open carefully and to manage everyone's safety when coming inside again.

Things will be a little different to what you're used to, but very similar to what you need to do everywhere in Auckland right now. We ask that you wear a mask when visiting, that you check in using the NZ COVID Tracer app or use a paper sign-in slip, and that you respect the Ministry of Health's two metre physical distancing guidelines.

There will be limits to the number of people we can allow inside each library at the same time. We also ask that you keep your visits relatively short (30 minutes) so that we can meet everyone's needs.

Click and collect is still available for anyone who wants a quick visit and some help with getting a reading fix. If you would like help collecting your holds quickly when you arrive at a library, have your library card handy and speak to a staff member near the entrance.

Public computers, printing and Wi-Fi will be available. Visit our website to find out more about what is available and what to expect.

Our Te Māpuna, Library Connect team can provide additional assistance by phone on 09 377 0209.

We look forward to seeing you!

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LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Call her an agent... Sveta Hackett, 16, won best actor playing a Russian spy in Operation Sparrow

Takapuna students win filmmaking awards

Students from Age School in Takapuna have collected awards in a silent film festival.

The International Youth Silent Film Festival (IYSFF) is a global competition for filmmakers aged 20 and under to create a three-minute silent film set to one of 10 musical scores composed for the festival.

Age School in Takapuna produced three films, *Operation Sparrow*, *Reach Out... 'n I'll Be There* and *The Good, the Bad and the Dolly*, which all made the top 15 of the New Zealand nationals.

At the awards night on 11 November, Sveta Hackett's *The Good, the Bad and the Dolly* was placed third, winning a \$500 prize. Sveta also won best actor for her work as a Russian spy on *Operation Sparrow*, with fellow student Timothy Chen taking best director for that film.

IYSFF New Zealand celebrity judge, comedian and writer Tom Sainsbury said he was impressed with the quality of the top 15.

"Your technical side of things was just incredible, but I also loved the stories as well.

"I can't wait to see what you all do next," he told the young filmmakers.



Shared glory... Sveta's team for *The Good, the Bad and the Dolly*, which came third: Oscar Cornes, Timothy Chen, Amelia Barnes-Hogan and Charlie Grey. Tim also won best director for *Operation Sparrow*.

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Booklovers delighted as libraries reopen



Shelf life... Librarian Anne Betts (left) and Milford resident Mary Seliaerts were happy the Takapuna Library had reopened last week

Milford's Mary Seliaerts had just finished a stack of books her daughter had provided and was delighted that Takapuna Library had reopened last week.

"I couldn't wait," she said on the first day libraries across Auckland had allowed patrons to come back inside. "I've got to have my books."

There are limits to how many people are allowed inside each library, depending on size, and people are asked to stay no longer than 30 minutes so they can meet everyone's needs. Computers, printing and wifi are available, and click-and-collect remains an option for those who prefer it.

But activities at the library are still on

hold, probably until the end of the year, community engagement librarian Anne Betts said. She said the number of visitors at Takapuna Library was picking up that morning. "Some people are taking stacks of 20 that they've been waiting for.

"It's lovely to see the building come alive again."

Local arts hubs eye busy 2022

It has been a challenging few months for Takapuna's arts hubs, but Lake House and the PumpHouse are both getting ready to bounce back.

The PumpHouse Theatre hopes it can run Christmas carols in the amphitheatre on 21 December. "And then we have a full calendar for 2022," says business manager James Bell. It had been tough juggling refunds and cancellations, he said, but even under red in the traffic-light system shows should be able to be staged with limited audience numbers.

"We've been able to rebook a lot for next year. It's always a bit frustrating for the performers who have put so much time and

effort into getting ready." It would now be this time next year for some of them, he said.

Lake House Arts manager Grae Burton said classes would continue online this year, but the centre was preparing for a full reopening in the new year and had extended its deck area for more outdoor activities.

Its cafe was serving takeaways and the gallery shop had reopened, taking extra space for Christmas shopping.

Outdoor events were in the pipeline and artworks on display in the gardens for working already. Its *Wood Sculpture Symposium* had, like its classes, also gone online to positive feedback.

Snap happy in mall and around the shops

Photography fans should keep their eyes open in Takapuna for some interesting shots on display.

Shore City Shopping Centre is hosting a selection of images and others can be seen around the streets in shop windows

Takapuna Beach Business Association is encouraging people to return to the area to support retailers and to enjoy discovering what it now offers on Hurstmere Rd, where temporary attractions such as some of the pictures can be seen. The displays spin off from the Auckland Festival of Photography.

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Located across from Killarney Park and Lake Pupuke this cool weatherboard home on 321sqm comes to the market. Bigger than expected offering 4 very generously sized bedrooms, master en suite and walk in robe, family bathroom and storage. Downstairs kitchen is open plan and flanked by the dining room to the left and lounge to the right. A huge door opens to the lawn with ground level deck perfect for a BBQ on the western side.

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TAKAPUNA | 303/8A LAKE PUPUKE DRIVE | PROUDLY POSITIONED PENTHOUSE



Positioned on the top floor of the popular 8 Lake Pupuke Drive complex, sits this near new 3 bedroom plus media room/study. With a panoramic urban vista and full cityscape, you can live in effortless luxury here. Open plan living flows directly to the large deck area, perfect for relaxing on and taking in the action of Takapuna. There are 2 parallel carparks in the secure basement. This is a perfect lock and leave.

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TAKAPUNA | 403/3 NORTHCROFT STREET | FOR POOL, GYM, SPA, SAUNA, BBQ LOVERS | THE SENTINEL



Located on the 4th floor, on the same level as the fabulous Sentinel podium where all the great amenities are. Enjoy the 25m heated pool, take a dip or have a gym workout anytime without getting in the lift! This 2 bedroom 2 bathroom apartment sits on the eastern corner drinking in the morning sun. A tandem (two) carpark and storage locker included. A lifestyle second to none at your fingertips.

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